





## Today's Advertisements.



### WAR DEPARTMENT.

#### HOUSES WANTED.

SEVERAL HOUSES are required immediately suitable as Quarters for Married Soldiers. If large houses are offered they should admit of the allotment of 2 to 3 rooms to each family.

Officers, with full particulars as to situation, rent, and number of rooms, to be sent to the DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL (B), Commissariat Buildings, Hongkong, 29th December, 1898. [1538]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA VIA AMOY.

THE Company's Steamship

"KINGSING" Captain Young, will be despatched as above on SATURDAY, the 31st instant, at Noon. This Steamer has Superior Accommodation for First class Passengers.

For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers, Hongkong, 29th December, 1898. [1534]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.

THE Company's Steamship

"FORMOSA," Captain Milroy, will be despatched for the above Ports, on SUNDAY, the 1st January, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAURIE & Co., General Managers, Hongkong, 29th December, 1898. [1535]

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

THE Steamship

"KOH-I-NUR," Captain L. Elliot, will be despatched for the above Ports, on WEDNESDAY, the 4th January, at 3 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 29th December, 1898. [1536]

FOR NEW YORK VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Steamship

"COMMONWEALTH," will be despatched for the above port on or about the 20th January, 1899.

For Freight, apply to SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 29th December, 1898. [1537]

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

THE 100 At British Bark

"QUEEN MARGARET," Faulkner, Master, shortly expected here will load for the above Port, and will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 29th December, 1898. [1538]

### Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

#### WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

ESTABLISHED 1841.

#### SCOTCH WHISKY.

A.—THORNE'S BLEND, White Capsule ..... \$10.80

B.—WATSON'S GLENORCHY MELLOW BLEND, Blue Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark ..... 10.80

C.—WATSON'S ABELOUR GLENLIVET, Red Capsule, with name and Trade Mark ..... 12.00

D.—WATSON'S K.D. BLEND OF THE FINEST SCOTCH MALT WHISKIES, Violet Capsule ..... 14.40

E.—WATSON'S VERY OLD LIQUEUR SCOTCH WHISKY, Gold Capsule ..... 15.00

THORNE'S BLEND and WATSON'S GLENORCHY are high class Soda Whiskies, of greater age than most brands in the market.

ABELOUR GLENLIVET is a very old Peat Whisky, (smoky) and could not now be replaced in stock at the price.

D is well known for its fine flavour.

E is of superb quality and pronounced by leading local connoisseurs to be the best brand in the Hongkong market.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Limited, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, Established 1841.

### BIRTHS.

On the 17th instant, at Singapore, the wife of F. B. CROUCHER, M.D., of Malacca, of a son.

On Sunday, 18th inst., at Tyrie, Mount Elizabeth, the wife of JAMES GRAHAM, of a son.

On the 18th instant, at Spottiswoode House, Singapore the wife of ALFRED KITCHING, of a son.

### MARRIAGE.

At St John's Cathedral, on the 29th instant, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Dr. J. H. Swan, third son of Wm. SWAN, Monaghan, Ireland, to ANNIE GRACE PATTERSON, third daughter of the late Henry Patteson of Manchester.

### DEATHS.

On November 3rd, suddenly, in London, W. BERTRAND ROBERTS, late Manager of Buffalo Reef Gold Mining Company, Ltd., Pahang.

At 69, Newlands Park, Sydenham, on the 24th November, LAURA, the beloved wife of Edmund Scott Russell, aged 43.

At No. 17, Oura, Nagasaki, on 21st December, at 2 a.m., WILLIAM CRUNSELD, aged 42.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1898.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Apparently the plague, which first made its appearance in Hongkong in 1894, is gradually spreading westwards. Cases have occurred at Vienna and a patient has been landed at Plymouth and isolated for treatment. Of course the Plymouth and Vienna cases are imported ones, but still, if one or two cases can be imported, it stands to reason that the disease may be introduced into Europe, and so into the United Kingdom, either by the landing of infected persons upon whom the symptoms have not become apparent, or as at Vienna, by an accident in a bacteriological laboratory. Reuter reports that at Tamatave, in Madagascar, no less than one hundred and eight deaths have occurred already, including one European, and it is therefore evident that the disease has obtained a firm hold there. In the earlier stages of the plague few Europeans were attacked, but as we saw last year in Hongkong, a new form of the disease has made its appearance, by which Europeans are readily attacked and it therefore behoves the sanitary authorities of Europe to take efficient steps to prevent the importation of this deadly disease into the crowded cities of the west.

We have heard it stated that the plague is essentially a filth disease and that consequently it could never gain a foothold in England, but to anyone acquainted with the filth, disease and poverty existing in many of our larger towns this statement at once appears absurd. In the London slums and alleys spots are to be found which will not even compare favourably with the state of Tai-ping-shan in 1894, and from these we feel convinced that the new form of the disease, once it obtained a hold, would spread rapidly, claiming its victims amongst rich and poor alike. We fervently hope that Great Britain may be spared any such visitation, but it is useless to shut one's eyes to the fact that ever since plague first made its appearance in this Colony it has steadily continued its westward march.

And where plague goes it goes to stay. Hongkong has not been free of it since the first outbreak, for, as the spring progresses, cases crop up and the disease runs its course during the spring and summer months each year. Directly the disease appears we get to work to clean the town and strive to stamp it out, but, as soon as the present danger is past the efforts at keeping the place in a thoroughly sanitary condition are relaxed, and the result is that the next spring a sufficient amount of dirt and filth has been accumulated to allow the plague to once more obtain a firm hold on the town. As we have before pointed out to the authorities, it is not sufficient to commence the cleansing of the slums and alleys when the plague appears. They should be periodically inspected and kept in a thoroughly sanitary state so as to allow the disease no chance of sieging upon any one particular spot as a breeding ground directly the climatic conditions become suitable.

In Hongkong the winter is always looked upon as the healthy season, and so it is, as a matter of fact. But it is in the cool weather that precautions should be taken for ensuring the thorough cleanliness of the town. Decomposition does not set in so rapidly then, and consequently filth can collect in dark slums and alleys without making its presence manifest by pestilential stenches, but the dirt is there just the same and forms a breeding ground for disease germs which are scattered broadcast and emerge from their torpid state with the return of spring and the warmer weather. It is a great pity that such a state of things should be allowed to exist. The protection of the Colony from epidemics is of the utmost importance, for once a disease of an infectious character becomes epidemic in the town trade is greatly interfered with, the surrounding ports enforce quarantine regulations against all arrivals from Hongkong, and thousands of dollars are lost, all for the want of a little common sense and foresight upon the part of our sanitary officials. We earnestly trust that Sir HENRY BLAKE will see the urgent necessity that exists for a properly constituted Sanitary Department; one that would not make spasmodic efforts at cleansing and whitewashing when plague or some other disease has actually broken out, but would make it its duty to see that unrelenting efforts were made to clean away filth as it collected and so keep the place sweet and clean the whole year round. Of course such a department would require a large staff, but the extra expense involved would be amply repaid by immunity from plague. We recommend the matter to Sir HENRY'S consideration.

### REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

#### THE PLAGUE IN MADAGASCAR.

LONDON, December 27th. One hundred and eight deaths in all, including one European, have occurred at Tamatave.

#### CRETE AND THE POWERS.

The several European Admirals have finally left Crete.

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

The President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, speaking at a dinner said, he was able to state that the Queen had decided to visit Nice, thereby proving that better diplomatic relations prevailed between the two countries.

#### WEATHER REPORT.

The Observatory report says:—On the 29th at 11.45 a.m. The barometer has fallen in the extreme North, risen on the E. coast of China. Pressure is highest over N. China, lowest in the N.E. part of the Sea of Japan. Gradients, for N.E. winds, increasing in S. China, and in the N. part of the China Sea. Forecast:—moderate to fresh N.E. winds; fine.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

At 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon next a football match will take place between G. Company, and the Band and Drums for the Regimental Challenge Football Shield.

At the Police Court this morning Wong Yan Pan was fined \$100 for carrying fire arms without a licence. Thirty-seven other cases were disposed of by the Police Magistrate. The total amount of fines imposed for being unlawfully in possession of opium without valid certificates, amounted to \$90.

THE *Siam Observer* reports the capture of an elephant at Muang Ubon, and remarks that such a thing being a rare occurrence is worthy of record. Every man we know of who has visited Siam has generally shot several elephants; we will know, however, in the future how to receive such statements.

NATIVE dispatches from Chungking report that the restoration of the hospital and dispensary belonging to American missionaries which were destroyed last year at Kiangpoh, began some time during the first part of the current month. The people—round about Chungking are said to be getting excited and hostile against Christians again, owing to the rumour now current that the attempted arson at the barracks on the night of the 14th ultimo which caused a number of panic-stricken women to commit suicide was the work of a Chungking convert. The high provincial authorities consider the situation so complicated and grave from this fresh hostility, that they have been recently considering the desirability of temporarily removing all the converts now inside the walls of Chungking to the South hills near the city, where being in a body the officials will be able to give them better protection for the time. The converts, however, object strongly to their ejection from Chungking city, and a proclamation will therefore be issued by the Viceroy exhorting them to obey.

—N. C. D. News.

At the regular meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 525, E.C., held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, 27th December, Mr. Wor. Bro. C. P. Chatter, C.M.G., D.G.M., accompanied by Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray, D.D.G.M. and the D. G. Lodge Officers attended for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect Bro. C. Piercy in the chair for the ensuing year. The W.M. then appointed and invested his Officers as follows:—I.P.M. Wor. Bro. G. J. B. Sayer; S.V. Bro. J. Dyer Ball; J.V. Bro. J. W. L. Oliver; Treasurer Wor. Bro. G. A. Caldwell; J.M. Secretary Bro. E. Ralph; D.D. Bro. O. Ordish; J.D. Bro. J. J. Bryan; Organist Bro. G. Grimble; D.C. Bro. B. Brotherton Harker; I.G. Bro. G. F. R. Sachs; St. Bro. J. Shelton; Tyler Bro. B. Jorus. The Brethren subsequently adjourned to the lower hall, which had been handsomely decorated and illuminated, with fairy lamps and Masonic emblems in various coloured electric lights, and partook of a banquet provided by Thomas's Grill Room. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured and the Brethren spent a very enjoyable evening, which was enlivened by songs, recitations and speeches. The Meeting was brought to a close by the hearty singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.

WE have on previous occasions referred to the firm conviction held by the French that their colonies exist only for the benefit of the mother country, but it would probably be impossible to give a more striking illustration of the lengths to which the Gallic official will go than an instance recorded by the United States Consul for Madagascar, General Gallieni, who apparently has a full share of the national antipathy evinced in high circles to anything not of French origin, was last year scandalised at some of the native officials appearing before him in garments of American manufacture. This was not to be borne. Doubtless he felt that an attempt was being made to humiliate *la patrie*, so he straightway sat down and indited a letter on the subject to the Hova Governor-General at Antananarivo, from which the following is an extract:—"Some of the native functionaries did furthermore present themselves to me in raiment and dress of foreign origin. I consider that in so doing they have been wanting in deference towards the representative of France in Madagascar. Our French officers and functionaries wear only clothes of French origin. The Malagasy functionaries must do likewise, and their raiment must be all made of French cloth and furnishings." After this the native official must prefer content himself with taking his clothes, if not the fashions, from Paris. But if this is the usual practice of French-Colonial authorities, their Government should not feel surprised that any proposed extension of the Republic's boundaries is viewed with disfavour by other manufacturing countries.—*Financial Times*.

ON the 1st January next, all the chandu required for public consumption in French Indo-China will be prepared at a Central Government Factory at Saigon. Difficulty in uniform preparation will arise from the smokers in Cochinchina. Annam, Cambodia, and Laos preferring Benares opium, while those in Tonquin will have none but Yunnan opium prepared in a particular way. Serious trouble is expected should the Tonquinese be deprived of their favourite brand.

IN a lecture on the Philippine Question, Mr. G. F. Seward, formerly U. S. Consul-General at Shanghai, and Minister at Peking, tells the following amusing story of Shanghai in the good old days:—"A predecessor of mine at Shanghai, having on his hands a hundred or more refractory sailors, and no prison, sent the whole lot to the native governor to be confined. They stayed there a little while and then marched out of the prison and down the river road in front of the Consul's office, each one bearing on his shoulder a pole which he had taken out of the prison stockade. The Consul wrote about the case to the Secretary of State, giving the facts; and urging upon his attention the disgrace attending the situation. He got this answer: 'I have received your dispatch of date. In writing to this department hereafter, please use cap paper, leaving a margin one inch wide, all around. Yours respectfully, Daniel Webster!' Now perhaps, this may be an extreme instance but it was an actual instance"—N. C. D. News.

THE *Naval and Military Record* says:—Lord Charles Beresford seems to be justifying the opinion expressed when he left for China that he could turn his hand to anything and meet with success. As a commissioner on a large scale he seems to be sweeping all before him. According to reports, Chinese merchants are receiving him with every kindness. From the city it is reported that his lordship has forestalled German representatives, and saved several good contracts for England. This proves what a man whose head is screwed on in the right way can do for British manufactures abroad. A more complete justification of properly-equipped commercial travellers and missions could not be imagined. Lord Charles Beresford will deserve the thanks of the whole commercial community for the reports as to his achievements are correct, for recent developments have brought British supremacy in the China trade to a turning point. The crisis, which may issue for or against us, has now come to a head. By the way, this latest report is in the Russian language is being taught—by preference—to intended colonists and officials proceeding to the new German colony of Kiaochow. This is a significant comment on the situation.

### THE FILIPINO COMMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.

IN our issue of the 5th instant it was stated that the members of a special Commission despatched by General Aguinaldo to Washington had left here en route to the States, and that it had left by the *Salazar* for Shanghai and Japan, whence the Commissioners would proceed to their destination. We are now informed that a telegram has been received from the Commissioners (General Rios and Messrs. Losada and Luna) reporting that they were leaving Yokohama yesterday by the new and speedy trans-Pacific liner *Nippon Maru* bound for San Francisco, whence they expect to start on the overland journey to Washington on the 13th or 14th January.

### THE WRECK OF THE "ABANA."

SINGAPORE, December 17th. The steamer *Ranee* this morning arrived from Labuan with the European crew and second officer of the steamer *Abana*, which was wrecked on the 8th inst. near Labuan, and which has now been abandoned as a total wreck. After striking on an uncharted rock, the vessel was beached to prevent her sinking in deep water, and the crew worked four days on the vessel doing what was possible with the means at hand in the way of salvage. Although her decks are dry at low water her hatches are full of water, and on Monday evening the vessel was left to her fate, the crew being picked up on Tuesday, and arriving as stated this morning. On the departure of the crew the salvage party in the *Mercury* under Mr. Moulds had not arrived upon the scene of the wreck.

The *s.s. Abana*, which was bound from Labuan to Port Arthur with a cargo of coal from Barry, left Labuan on the 8th inst. early in the morning, and about 8 a.m. struck on a pinnacle rock where the chart showed 17 fathoms of water. Fearing a panic amongst the Lascar crew Capt. Smith ordered all hands to the life boat stations, and the boat was swung out in readiness, after which the steamer was run in-shore. Divers were sent down to ascertain the nature of her injuries if possible, but as the ship was flat bottomed and rested on the sand nothing could be made out. Later the Captain of the *Labuan* with the officers of the *Abana*, succeeded in finding the sunken reef at a depth of five fathoms only in lat. deg. 0° 45' N. long. 115 deg. 0' 45' E. The remaining portion of the crew, Capt. Smith, the third officer, the chief engineer and two quartermasters, with one passenger, a Russian military officer who shipped at Singapore, were still at Labuan, when the *Ranee* left.

### THE FORMOSAN BANDITS.

The bandits in Formosa are apparently getting more resolute. A telegram from Taipei, dated 2 p.m. on the 13th instant, announces that an attack was made by them on the South-Formosan branch of the Bank of Japan. They were driven off by a detachment of Japanese troops stationed in the neighbourhood, the latter losing one man. Nothing is said about the casualties on the side of the bandits. They can easily obtain a quantity of small arms, supposing it to be paper money.—*Japan Mail*.

### THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Second ordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held in the Company's Offices at noon to-day. There were present:—Mr. R. C. Wilcox (Chairman), Messrs. G. C. Cox, A. Denison, R. Abesser (Directors), J. R. Michael, S. H. Michael, E. George, K. Eduljee, G. Fortmann, R. Abesser, and Vogelgesang.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting as already specified.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, with your permission, we will follow the usual practice, and take the report and accounts as read. The accounts have been made up to the 30th June, the latest date we could, having regard to our distance from the mines, conveniently adopt. Since that date we have purchased (and I hope by this time set up) a battery of twenty head of stamps with equivalent barud pans, and these should now be engaged in crushing the 800 or 1,000 tons of quartz that have been brought to grass from the different mines. An office has also been erected at the mines, and the Dam has been completed, this assuring—so far as can be assured, in a country where droughts are frequent and the rainfall variable—a sufficient supply for all purposes. With regard to the mines themselves, you have no doubt read the reports from our manager, sent by each mail, and are therefore pretty well posted in the progress of the work of development. A great deal of work has been done in opening out our property, through of course much more remains to be accomplished before we can expect a sufficiently large output to keep our battery fully and constantly at work. At the end of June the Great Eastern shaft had sunk to a depth of 181 feet with a cross-cut to west of 31 feet and one to east of 15 feet. The Caledonian main shaft was then 164 feet deep and the cross-cut 6 feet. The Zulu shaft had got down to depth of 129 feet and that in the Rise and Shine to 91 feet. The prospecting shaft had been sunk to a depth of 107 feet, and work was then suspended upon it in order that our resources might be concentrated in opening out the other shafts. Since that period the Great Eastern drive has been 290 feet north, with rise and fall in the Zulu shaft of 48 feet. The Caledonian shaft has been effected south, and drives have also been commenced in the Bank of England and Rise and Shine shafts. So far, very satisfactory progress has been made, but the stone is unusually hard and we are at some disadvantage in not possessing rock-drilling plant, as our manager tells us he could with advantage then employ more than 200 hands, who would turn out plenty of quartz at a great saving in the cost of winning it. What we want is a large and steady output of quartz like they are getting at Raub. According to the assayer's reports, it would appear that the gold is nearly all extracted without having to use the cyanide process, so we are making no provision for the acquisition of a cyanide plant. The stone at Mount MacDonald is fairly rich, but the gold is not by any means evenly distributed. We have so far been fortunate in striking good lodes which seem to yield more than the average, but of course some of them may vary in width and richness. If, however, we can only develop the mines sufficiently we ought to be able to secure a steady output. In Mr. Carl we have an indefatigable manager, who looks after everything, and who will, we may be sure, do his best to keep things going and to prevent the waste which is such a conspicuous feature in many mining enterprises. The choice of the most suitable and economical machinery occupied a great deal of his and our attention, and we believe we have now acquired the best that could be obtained at the price and the kind most adapted to our wants. Miners as a class are difficult men to deal with and unless the mining manager is very diligent and on his feet, work is apt to be sadly neglected. Mr. Georg has experienced many difficulties of this kind, but he has profited by his experience, and has found it most advantageous to work by contract whenever possible. I am glad to say the calls have been responded to very readily, all being now paid up except those on 187 shares, one lot of which would have been paid but for the death of the holder, while another has been delayed by the accident of losing the scrip. You will observe that the directors' fees figure this year for only \$500 which sum was voted to Mr. Denison in consideration of professional assistance. I trust, gentlemen, we shall receive a telegram from the mines next month announcing a satisfactory crushing; one that will encourage us to develop the mines thoroughly and quickly. We had hoped to have given you this news earlier, but the manufacturers failed to keep their time for delivery of some of the machinery; hence the delay in our first crushing. I think, gentlemen, that is all I have to say on this occasion; but if you have any questions to ask, I shall do my best to supply any further information.

In reply to a question by Mr. Georg, the Chairman said that they had a capital of \$35,000 to work on, which he thought would last for several months.

There being no other questions asked, the Chairman said he had much pleasure in proposing the adoption of the report.

Mr. Georg seconded the adoption and it was carried unanimously.

It was then proposed by Mr. A. Best, and seconded by Mr. J. R. Michael, that Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and R. Abesser be re-elected Directors. The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

It was decided that the election of Auditor be left in the hands of the Directors.

The proceedings then terminated.

After the meeting the Chairman called the attention of the shareholders to some exceedingly rich auriferous specimens, which he said were of especial interest to them, for the reason that the same were taken from the Pinkerton Mine, which is very close to the Company's own workings.

### AMERICA IN THE FAR EAST.

As an example of the interest that the United States is taking in the Far East, we learn that Mr. John Barrett, recently Minister of the United States to Siam, is now making a visit to Japan, after having made a sojourn in Peking and other parts of China, with a view to becoming thoroughly acquainted with the conditions of the Far Eastern problem before returning to America, via India. In the course of an interesting conversation with Mr. Barrett, who passed through Kobe on the *Doric* on Saturday, we find that he holds strong views on the question of the "open door" in the Far East. He believes that if Great Britain, the United States, Japan, and possibly Germany, all of whose interests as commercial nations are practically identical, will only come to an understanding in China, the question of the "open door" would be solved without difficulty. Such a combination, he thinks, is irresistible, and his visit to Japan is with the object of securing thorough acquaintance with the Government officials on the important question.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NAVY LEAGUE.

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League was held in St. Andrews Hall yesterday afternoon. Captain Hastings presided, being supported by Mr. J. J. Francis Q. C., Mr. M. W. Slade (Hon. Secretary) Mr. R. Cooke, Mr. H. A. Ritchie, Mr. G. Stewart, and Captain Tillet. About twenty-eight other members were present.

The Chairman in opening the Meeting said:—Gentlemen: Before asking you to pass our report, which, having now been some time in your hands, I trust you will take as read, I desire to add a few words to the very full and clear statement of our late honorary secretary. Firstly as to the financial state of our branch, you will note the large increase in our numbers, notwithstanding which we are only a hundred dollars better off than when we last presented a statement of accounts to you. We have so many new members that for their benefit I may as well tell you that in January last we abolished the \$2 entrance fee. In Great Britain to be a member of the Navy League costs a guinea a year; here, we have reduced the subscription to \$5, remitting however all the same 5/3 a head to the parent association. Associates' fees have also been reduced to \$2, of which 1/3 has to be remitted to London. Last year our printing bill was \$12; this year it was \$23.50. Last year we paid \$40 and this year \$120 for prizes to Schools. Last year telegrams cost us \$22, this year \$21.60, \$53.18 of which was, however, repaid by the head office. At last year's meeting to London we signed \$12, last year our dues amounted to \$204.80; this year our dues amounted to \$294.45. To-day we number 272 members and 50 associates, as against 93 members and 20 associates at our last annual meeting on the 3rd December, 1897. Gentlemen, your committee have reduced the fees to the limit of working expenses, so that practically there should be no bar but apathy to the enrolling of the whole of the adult British civil male population of the colony in the Navy League. We have succeeded in capturing about half. Your committee have spent for the education of their fellow nationals, £2, in printing, for you that \$23.50 this year. As against \$12 last year, or about 1/25 more. For here in China there have not been wanting object lessons to illustrate the teachings of the League and point their morals, bringing them home to us in a manner scarcely possible in Britain short of famine, which may God forbid. If in an intelligent moderately educated middle class community like that of this colony such expenditure is requisite to effect these results, pro rata how much would the League have to spend at home to enlighten the masses? In the spring of 1897, 406 British subjects in the colony signed a protest against any reduction of the Navy Estimates, yet large numbers of them have not joined our League, the only Association that enables them to voice their alleged then were their honest convictions. Gentlemen, we are not children or members of a mutual admiration society; it is therefore idle to blink the fact that in a British community like that of Hongkong, till your Committee can represent to the head office in London that the civil community is unanimous the field has not been worked to its utmost extent. We earnestly hope that during the coming year every Leaguer will be doing his utmost to denounce the war of attrition in the Navy League as a waste of his duty. Let him be as keen as a spearhead as he likes once he has been enrolled. "He that is not for me is against me." Amongst one section of the community our efforts have been singularly unsuccessful and barren of results, and that in a section where such ill success might least be looked for. I mean amongst the seafaring community. If to any one class of men more than to another should be patent the paramount necessity for a strong navy to Britain it would apparently be to the mercantile marine officers. They have grievances, therefore for them to deny their support to the very Association which is working for the removal of those grievances can only be the result of misapprehension—misapprehension which many of our members are well fitted and peculiarly favourably situated for dispelling. Overspreading the earth and honey-combing as they do the navigable globe the good mercantile marine officers could be in diffusing knowledge would be incalculable. Were two or three of our journals to go out in every British ship leaving Hongkong they would be doing immeasurable service to their country in conveying a just appreciation of the needs of and duties of being discharged by the British Navy to their countrymen in all the ends of the earth, knowledge that could not fail to be reflected and react on our countrymen at home. One more reference to our balance-sheet and I have done. The money remitted to the sufferers by the Norfolk boating disaster was not sent by your committee from the funds of this branch. It was the proceeds of a spontaneous subscription made up of money—some very small amounts—and forwarded through the Hon. Secretary. At our annual meeting last year Captain Anderson suggested that some of our members should give lectures, and gave us a practical illustration of what he meant in a most excellent address on the 31st January last, followed by Mr. Macchell on the 21st February. The two papers were printed and circulated. On April the 18th Mr. Francis gave a most interesting lecture to a crowded meeting upon "Mahatma's Life of Nelson and the lessons to be drawn therefrom." The letter from this branch dated 10th January last referred to in the report was published by the head office in all the great papers in Britain, and without being unduly self-laudatory, we may fairly congratulate ourselves on having been the channel through which our countrymen were enlightened as to the necessity for the Kwoloon extension. This single instance illustrates the value of our Association. Able men had for years been advocating this extension. Doubtless their efforts had in great measure paved the way for it. If I may say so—our success. A Department of State, a few individuals, and China heads—were aware of its desirability—necessity, under changed modern conditions of warfare, Far years individuals had pegged away, and unquestionably prepared the ground, and familiarised the Government with the subject, but it was a pegging that might have continued for generations. The time was ripe, though many held also that it was inappropriate—a joining in the game of grab. Our League was able to turn on the avalanche of instructed public opinion, and what had been for years overwhelmed by insupportable barriers were now opened up, and disappeared. (Hear, hear.) It is true, as our report shows, that the success has not been so complete and unqualified as was desired. Unexpected and unpleasant conditions have attached to it; how unsavoury and unwholesome your Committee have vigorously pointed out to the executive of the League, and we may rest assured that such steps as can be will be taken by them to render the extension all that was desired and intended to be. (Hear, hear.) Owing to the increase in membership, your committee decided to form the Leaguers into groups of friends and neighbours, with in more or less intimate relations, with a view of facilitating the circulation of League literature, to invite comment and criticism, and



suggestions for the welfare of the League in general, and the branch in particular; and to endeavour to induce a greater personal interest in the League and in the working of the branch. It is an invitation to all members and associates to offer suggestions and supply information to the committee. The committee would be glad if a few more members would volunteer to act as group leaders. We have had 15 groups. At our last annual meeting, when referring to the necessity of the re-enactment of the Contagious Diseases Act, I stated that there was a reasonable prospect that the old checks that had been found to work so satisfactorily in the past would be re-erected. I regret to say that now, a year later, those prospects are more remote. Your committees have represented to the central body that caste or racial prejudices are affected here—apart from direct results. The old law was appreciated by the natives as being the immediate cause of rescuing numbers of women who had been kidnapped and the addition of two battalions to the squadron in the East since last year is a source of satisfaction, especially when we consider that we are only a portion of Britain's world-wide responsibilities. (Hear, hear.) Within the last year we have heard seductive proposals for general disarmament accompanied, unfortunately, however, by the most colossal naval programmes of the fast closing century. When deeds synchronise with words our League can relax its efforts, but until that day, and not until that day, it must be our duty to endeavour to awaken and to keep our members awake and alive to the necessity of maintaining a firm superiority to any combination that may be formed against us. (Hear, hear.) In concluding, gentlemen, your committee, whilst expressing their regret that Mr. Pollock is unable to continue his Hon. Secretaryship, desires most emphatically to record their hearty thanks for the able, courteous, energetic, and tactful manner in which he has carried out his duties, a manner that has contributed so very materially to the success of this branch in the past year. (Applause.) With regard to Mr. Pollock's reasons for resigning I ask leave to make a personal explanation. I, also, as a Civil Servant, and some months ago asked the Officer Administering the Government if I might properly retain the position you were good enough to place me in. He informed me there was no reason why I should resign. This aptly illustrates (please to remember the reference to beauty are strictly metaphorical) the difference between the ornamental figure head and the working head. The working head has resigned and Mr. Slade has kindly consented to take his place. I will ask you now to pass our report, the adoption of which I beg to propose.

Mr. Francis begged leave to second the proposals laid before the meeting. He referred to the good work done for the Association by Captain Hastings, and said that the thanks of the Association were not only due to Mr. Pollock, but also to Captain Hastings for the progress of the Association during the past year. (Applause.) Mr. McConachie said he was sure everyone was satisfied with the work of the past year, and he could not do better than propose the re-election of the same committee. He, therefore, proposed that Captain Hastings (President), Mr. Pollock, P. W. Mitchell, H. A. Ritchie, R. Sheehan, G. Stewart, Capt. Tillet, and Mr. W. Slade (Hon. Sec. and Treasurer) be re-elected. Mr. Playfair seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Chairman said but for the fact that Mr. A. M. Marshall was leaving for Singapore in March next, that gentleman's name would have been included in the Committee.

Mr. T. Jackson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Pollock, the retiring Hon. Secretary, and said that although he did not wish in any way to depreciate the work the Chairman had done, he thought that Mr. Pollock had taken more labour upon his shoulders than any one else in connection with the Branch.

The Chairman said that it gave him very great pleasure in seconding that; he had had as much to do with Mr. Pollock as anyone during the past year, and Mr. Pollock had always kept him straight most efficiently.

The motion was passed amid applause. Mr. Pollock replied, and the meeting was closed.

## NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Things have been very quiet here the past two weeks. The first blow of the season set in last Monday and prevailed for two days, during which we had "weather" indeed. The dust lay two inches thick on everything, and no one stirred out of the house for the fun of the thing, while the river was speedily filled with floating ice. Now we are again enjoying comparatively mild weather, and genial sunshine.

The long talked of audience to the Ministers' wives came off on Tuesday the 13th inst., as twined to you on the 15th, and seems to have been a great success. Whatever difficulties had arisen in regard to precedence and such like considerations were finally overcome, and the British Ministers' wife took precedence throughout, the party leaving from and returning to the British Legation. The ladies rode in their own chairs as far as the gates of the Imperial City, where they were met by members of the Tsungli Yamen and other high officials and transferred to Imperial chairs in which they were carried over one of the numerous marble bridges until they reached a portion of the grounds where an electric tram or railway carried them on to the Reception Hall. Here they were received by Princess Ching and other members of the Imperial family and served with tea etc. Then they were conducted into the audience hall where they found not only the Empress but the Emperor. Lady MacDonald read a pretty little congratulatory speech in English, in which the Empress made some suitable reply, and then the ladies led by Lady MacDonald moved forward to the Dan. When they bowed low to the Emperor, instead of merely returning the salute, he smiled and shook hands warmly with each, the Empress Dowager doing the same, taking the opportunity to at the same time place on each lady's finger a gold ring set with pearls. The ladies were then entertained at luncheon, Princess Ching presiding at the table and everything being prepared in excellent style. At the end of the meal the Empress came in, bringing with her the Emperor's wife, who was introduced. The Dowager chatted through an interpreter very pleasantly with each lady, and then the guests were conducted to the Theatre where a special performance was arranged, and where they occupied boxes with plate glass fronts. After this there was more tea and light refreshments, the Empress Dowager once more making her appearance, to bid her guests adieu, express the pleasure their visit had given her, and to hope they had enjoyed it. Each lady then received a roll of broad silk and a painting by her Majesty, also some small gifts, and various other presents all of which were conveyed to the various Legations immediately after the party left the Palace. The Empress has, I am told, expressed her intention of receiving all the other Peking ladies at the New Year. The Dowager is a cleverer woman than even her warmest admirers have given her credit for

being, and while she employs one hand in keeping the nation back, she is going to employ the other in bringing herself and foreigners into closer contact evidently, and she probably trusts not a little to the influence of her personality, which I hear is very prepossessing.

SIR CLAUDE AND LADY MACDONALD are expected down from Peking to-day, as to-morrow Lady MacDonald has kindly consented to give the prizes to the pupils of All Saint's Girls' School, an honour to which they have looked forward very eagerly. Bishop Scott will be in the Chair, and as a very good programme has been got together by the indefatigable teachers, of music recitations and short acts, the function under the auspices of the Legation party promises to be a very interesting one.

THE RIVER IS STILL OPEN, and the winter mail service has come into operation as the steamers now at the bar do not count for anything.

The customary notification to all the officials throughout the province has been issued by the Board of Rites to make due preparation to save the moon on the 28th inst., when an eclipse is booked to take place, and great preparations are accordingly being made to scare away the swallowing dragon with fire crackers. In Tientsin we are preparing to do our share of the salvation noise by a rather crack American performance to be given by the U.S. Marine Guard stationed here, when we shall have an opportunity of seeing how they work these things in the States. Our American cousins assure us they have a sweet little way of their own in such matters.

## SHANGHAI AND THE NORTH.

(From Shanghai Papers.)

THE HANGCHOW EXPLOSION.

According to a native despatch, owing to a runaway train a shot had been fired into the powder magazine in Hangchow, which caused the dreadful explosion, the Governor at the request of the foreign consuls, issued a proclamation forbidding such an injurious rumour and assuring the people that it was entirely groundless.

A STRANGE REQUEST. It is reported that recently the Governor of Chihli received a telegram from the Japanese Consul General in Shanghai asking him to lend a port in that province for the drilling of troops. The Governor replied by wire enquiring which port was required and the number of soldiers to be drilled, at the same time wiring to the Tsungli Yamen for instruction in the matter.

THE PEIYANG FORCES. The whole Peiyang forces are now divided into six armies, Commanders Tung Fuhshing, Sung Ching Yian Shihkai and Nieh Kungting will have the command of 40,000 men, Jung Lu commands 10,000 himself as a central army and the old provincial forces of Chihli have been disbanded to form a new trained corps, the command of which will probably be given to Kao Paohang.

A CURIOUS STATEMENT. It is stated by the *Universal Gazette* that Lord Charles Beresford in his interview with Viceroy Liu Kunyi in Peking proposed to undertake the drilling of Chinese troops in all the southern ports, but the Viceroy declined on the ground that the expenditure could not be afforded. Lord Charles then said that he could, when he returned to England, induce the members of Parliament into agreeing to an increased duty of 1 per cent on foreign goods for the exclusive expenditure of the training of troops in the southern ports.

THE ANTI-CHRISTIAN RIOTS. A special telegram from Wuchang has been received by the *Universal Gazette* stating that the Anti-Christian outbreaks in Liehuan and Patung districts have been caused by local malcontents connected with Yü Mantzu, this being proved by the fact that Yü's correspondence and cards have been found on the persons of captured rebels. On receipt of information by wire from Ichang and Shihang prefectures, Viceroy Chang Chihlung dispatched Commander-in-Chief Kao, Colonel Wu and an Prefect Chu with 100 "braves" to attempt to put down the rebels.

ANOTHER FIRE IN NANGHAI. At 5.45 p.m. on the 22nd inst. a fire broke out in North Honan Road in an alleyway known as Donklong formed of two blocks of four houses each. The fire began at No. 28 and before the firemen could set to work it had already a good hold on the entire block and No. 26, 27 and 29 fell successively a prey to the element. The firemen succeeded, however, in confining the fire to this block but not without gutting and otherwise damaging six other houses. The origin of the fire is unknown. The property belongs to Mr. Ching Chong. By 10.30 p.m. the fire was completely got under. The Police preserved good order under Inspector Bourke.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS. Recently in reply to a telegram sent from Viceroy Chang Chihlung, asking the cause of his warlike preparations along the Yangtze, H.E. Liu Kewen replied that it was in consequence of the Ningpo loss House difficulty not being yet arranged. During the riots there some twenty or thirty Chinese had been killed without reasonable cause, and the French refuse to pay compensation money to the survivors. The French are also demanding the removal of the Joss House and the extension of their settlement, and on account of his opposition they have intrigued to have Taotai Tsai removed. This is an act of great injustice on the part of the French and H.E. has determined not to give way even though the Throne were willing to do so.

FIRE AT WUHU. Wuhu was visited by another fire on the night of the 20th inst. It occurred in the fire district south of the small river. Commencing about 10 o'clock it burnt for the best part of three hours, and nearly 200 houses were consumed. The south chapel of the Alliance Mission was seriously threatened with destruction at the beginning, houses in front and alongside being burned, but a change of wind saved the day. A girl 12 years of age was burned to death. An opportune shower of rain did more to stop the fire spreading than the mobile fire-brigade. China spends and has spent money for foreign arms and for foreigners to drill her soldiers. It would be a good thing if she would get effective fire engines and forego the idea of the present outward squad who pass for her firemen.

SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod-Liver Oil with Hypophosphites is the most valuable remedy for Consumption, Scrofula, General Debility, Wasting Disease of Children, Chronic Coughs, and other ailments that have ever been produced. It is very palatable, it is very strengthening. It will ease at once the most violent cough and will give both comfort and strength to the sufferer. It possesses the combined virtues of these popular remedies in their fullest form. Any Chemist can supply it. Sole Agents for Hongkong and the Empire of China—Watkins & Co., Hongkong—Adm.

## NOT AND A.

## CALENDAR.

Meteorological means based on ten years' observations to 1893.

Barometer ..... 29.818  
Thermometer ..... 80.1  
Humidity ..... 77  
Rainfall ..... 8.58

## TO-DAY.

WEATHER REPORT.  
On date at 10 a.m. 4 p.m.  
Barometer ..... 30.13 30.03  
Thermometer ..... 65 65  
Humidity ..... 79 63  
Rainfall ..... — —

## TO-DAY.

Thursday, 29th December, 1898.

Chinese—17th of 11th moon of 24th year of Kwang-shu.

High water—Morning ..... 11hr. 20min.  
Afternoon ..... 5hr. 17min.  
Low water—Morning ..... 5hr. 13min.  
Afternoon ..... 2hr. 42min.

## ANNIVERSARIES.

1170—Murder of Thomas à Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.  
1809—W. E. Gladstone born.  
1843—Gwalior, the "Gibraltar of the East" taken by the British.  
1848—The Pope Deposed by the Roman Assembly.  
1850—And Kaffir War commenced.  
1854—The Taipings blocked the Canton river and defeated the Imperialist fleet at Whampoa.  
1857—Magazine Hill, Canton, captured by the British and French forces.

## TO-MORROW.

Friday, 30th December, 1898.

Chinese—18th of 11th moon of 24th year of Kwang-shu.

Moon—in Apogee 2hr. a.m.  
High water—Morning ..... 11hr. 58min.  
Afternoon ..... 5hr. 48min.  
Low water—Morning ..... 5hr. 40min.  
Afternoon ..... 3hr. 27min.

## ANNIVERSARIES.

1852—Pegu annexed.  
1854—All slaves of the Portuguese Crown declared free.  
1874—Prince Alfonso proclaimed King of Spain.  
1880—Grand Naval Review at Tsimsatsui.  
1893—Grand Concert at Government Civil Hospital.  
1896—Dr. Rizal shot at Manila for complicity in the rebellion.

## SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

## MAILS DUE.

French (*Laos*) 1st prox.  
Australian (*Changsha*) 5th prox.  
Australian (*Gulfric*) 8th prox.  
American (*City of Peking*) 20th prox.  
American (*Gaile*) 21st prox.

WE are informed that the Messageries Maritimes Co.'s steamer *Laos* with the next French Mail, will leave Saigon for this port at 2 p.m. to-day the 29th instant.

THE Agents (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) inform us that the E. & A. steamer *Gulfric* from Sydney, etc., left Port Darwin for this port to-day the 29th instant.

THE O. & S. S. Co.'s steamer *Gaile* with mails, etc., left San Francisco for this port via Honolulu, Yokohama, Inland Sea, Kobe, Nagasaki and Shanghai, on the 24th instant.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s steamer *Empress of Japan* arrived at Kobe at 1.30 a.m. yesterday the 28th, and left at 1.30 p.m. for Yokohama, where she is expected to arrive at noon to-day the 29th instant.

THE P. M. S. Co.'s steamer *China* with mails, etc., which left hence November 30th for San Francisco, via Macao, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Yokohama and Honolulu, arrived at her destination on the 26th instant.

## HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK RETURNS.

*Isidoro Pons* ..... at Kowloon Dock.  
H.I.G.M.S. *Kaiser* ..... "  
H.I.G.M.S. *Chunshan* ..... "  
Bygo ..... "  
H.I.G.M.S. *Morue* ..... "  
H.I.G.M.S. *Gefion* ..... "  
H.I.G.M.S. *K. A. Ta* ..... "  
H.I.G.M.S. *Albatross* ..... "  
H.I.G.M.S. *Isola de Cuba* ..... "  
Isola de Luzon ..... "  
Avigoro ..... "  
Orlo ..... "  
Pakshan ..... Cosmopolitan  
Hankow ..... "  
Zhalan ..... Aberdeen

## PASSED THE CANAL.

Outward—Nov. 22nd *Plinthshire*; Nov. 29th *Glida*, *Denied*, *Dorothea Rickmers*; Dec. 6th *Tantalus*; Dec. 9th *Sikh*, *Socotra*, *Vladimir*; Dec. 13th *Petrovsk*, *Norfolk*; Dec. 16th *Servia*, *Vim Zrench*; Dec. 20th *Glasgow*, *Prussia*, *Elipchdale*; Dec. 23rd *Wenington*, *Hall*, *Tonkin*.  
Homeward—Dec. 20th *Andalusia*, *Stolberg*; Dec. 23rd *Dardanus*, *Sarpedon*.

## Hotel.

## WINDSOR HOTEL, HONGKONG.

THIS ESTABLISHMENT, situated in the elegant Building known as "CONNAUGHT HOUSE," offers First-class Accommodation to Residents and Travellers. Passenger Elevator from Entrance Hall to each Floor, in charge of experienced Attendant. Favourable Arrangements made for Families and for Monthly or Extended Periods.  
P. BOHM, Proprietor & Manager.  
Hongkong, 3rd April, 1895.

## To be Let.

SEMI-DETACHED VILLA RESIDENCES on Bowen Road (now in course of erection).  
PROPERTY now occupied by the Downing Saw Mills.  
FLOORS STAINMENT and ELGIN STREETS.  
"FAIRVIEW" KOWLOON.  
"BAHAR LODGE".  
No. 4, RIFON TERRACE.  
Apply to  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, 16th November, 1898.

## Shipping.

## STEAMERS.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.  
FOR PORT DARWIN, QUEENSLAND PORTS, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND LAUNCESTON.  
THE Company's Steamship

"TAIYUAN,"  
Captain Nelson, will be despatched as above TO-MORROW, the 30th instant, at Noon.  
The attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer. The First-class Saloon is situated forward of the Engines. A Refrigerating Chamber ensures the Supply of Fresh Provisions during the entire voyage.  
A duly qualified Surgeon is carried and the Vessel is fitted throughout with Electric Light.  
N.B.—Return Tickets issued by this Company to and from AUSTRALIA are available for return by the Steamers of the EASTERN and AUSTRALIAN S.S. Co. and vice versa.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.  
Hongkong, 29th December, 1898.

NAVIGAZIONE GENERALE ITALIANA, (FLORIO & RUBATTINO UNITED COMPANIES.)  
STEAM FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.  
Having connexion with the Company's Mail Steamers to ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, MESSINA, NAPLES, LEOHORN and GENOA.  
ALSO  
VENICE AND TRIESTE, all MEDITERRANEAN, ADRIATIC, LEVANTINE and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS up to CALLOA.  
Taking Cargo at through rates to PERSIAN GULF and BAGDAD.  
ALSO  
BARCELONA, VALENZA, ALICANTE, ALMERIA and MALAGA.  
THE Steamship

"BORMIDA,"  
Captain Delava, will be despatched as above on SATURDAY, the 31st instant, at Noon.  
At BOMBAY the Steamers are discharging in VICTORIA DOCK.  
For Further Particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply to CARLOWITZ & Co., Agents.  
Hongkong, 27th December, 1898.

THE SHELL TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.  
"SHELL" LINE OF STEAMERS.  
FOR LONDON (via SINGAPORE).  
THE Company's Steamship

"ELPHINSTONE,"  
Captain C. Abbott, will be despatched as above on or about the 31st instant.  
For Freight, apply to ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co., Agents.  
Hongkong, 27th December, 1898.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.  
FOR SAMARANG AND SOURABAYA.  
THE Company's Steamship

"SHANTUNG,"  
Captain Frampton, will be despatched as above on MONDAY, the 1st January, at Noon.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.  
Hongkong, 24th December, 1898.

MOGUL-WARRACK-MILBURN LINE.  
FOR NEW YORK via SUEZ CANAL.  
THE Steamship

"MOGUL,"  
will be despatched as above on or about the 12th January, 1899.  
S.S. "ENERGIA" ..... About 19th Jan., 1899.  
S.S. "PANTHER" ..... 31st Jan., 1899.  
S.S. "ARGYLL" ..... 15th Feb., 1899.  
S.S. "SIKH" ..... 28th Feb., 1899.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to DODWELL, CARILL & Co., Agents.  
Hongkong, 27th December, 1898.

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S.S. "SIKH" ..... 28th Feb., 1899.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DODWELL, CARILL &amp; Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1898.

Masonic.

BOTHEN MARK LODGE, No. 254.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on SATURDAY, the 1st instant, at 5 for 5.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1898.

Intimations.

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